

# Bosnia







**I**N January 1997 the 31,000 troops of the newly established NATO Stabilization Force — about half the size of the initial NATO Implementation Force — had assumed their new mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina under Operation Joint Guard.

IFOR had implemented the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement, under Operation Joint Endeavor, since December 1995.

SFOR's primary mission is to contribute to the secure environment necessary for the consolidation of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina by stabilizing the current environment in which local and national authorities and other international

organizations work.

Additionally, SFOR's role is to deter or prevent new threats and the resumption of hostilities, promote a climate in which the peace process can move forward and provide selective support to civilian organizations.

Every NATO nation with armed forces is committing troops to SFOR, as was also the case with IFOR. Iceland, the only NATO country without armed forces, is providing medical support.

All 18 non-NATO nations that participated in IFOR are participating in SFOR: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia and Morocco. Slovenia and Ireland have



also joined SFOR, bringing the total number of non-NATO participating nations to 20.

NATO envisions an 18-month mission for SFOR that includes shifting its mission focus from stabilization to deterrence and completing the mission by June 1998.

Photographs (clockwise from left): Spec. Alejandro Cabello, 55th Signal Company; SFC Larry Lane, PAO, Fort Benning, Ga.; Spec. David Boe, 364th MPAD; Paul Adams, 81st RSC. Digital composition by Paul Henry Crank.